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DATE: April 16, 2004

TO: Examiner Kim T. HUYNH
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Group Art Unit: 2189

FROM: George N. Stevens

RE: U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 09/512,884
By: **KASHIWAGI**, et al.
Our Reference: 000207

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RE: PROPOSED EXAMINER'S INTERVIEW

GNS/nrp

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **KASHIWAGI, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **2189**

Serial No.: **09/512,884**

Examiner: **HUYNH, Kim T.**

Filed: **February 25, 2000**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 7754

For: **ELECTRONIC APPARATUS AND INPUT DEVICE**

PROPOSED EXAMINER INTERVIEW

April 16, 2004

Dear Examiner Kim:

The applicant in the above referenced case desires that an Examiner Interview take place.

The topics for discussion would include the following:

1. The primary reference Clancy et al. does not disclose or suggest that the input device can be removed from the space. Clancy et al. simply indicates that the input device may pop up from the space and not removed as required by independent claims 1 and 7-9. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 7-9 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 1,

"An electronic apparatus to which an input device is connected, comprising: a main unit; a display unit rotatably attached to the main unit; and a retaining mechanism retaining at least one portion of the input device into a space which is formed by between the display unit and the main unit when the input device is not used, wherein the input device is removable from the space." (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, the applicant must traverse the Examiner's grounds of rejection and request reconsideration.

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2. In the alternative if the Examiner does not agree that the prior art of record does not disclose that the input device is removable from the space then the applicant wishes to discuss another amendment as provided below. In this possible amendment the input device is completely detachable from the main unit which is also not disclosed by Clancy et al. Consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

3. If the proposed amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance then any amendment to the claims the Examiner might suggest is welcomed.

We would suggest that the Examiner interview take place at 10AM on Tuesday April 20 or any day thereafter. Please call me at (202) 659-2930 to arrange the interview

Best Regards

George N. Stevens

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Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An electronic apparatus to which an input device is connected, comprising:

a main unit;

a display unit rotatably attached to the main unit; and

a retaining mechanism retaining at least one portion of the input device into a space which is formed by between the display unit and the main unit when the input device is not used;

~~wherein the input device is removable from the space,~~

wherein the input device is completely detachable from the main unit.

Claim 2 (original): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining mechanism comprises at least one supporting member.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining mechanism further comprises a supporting member is mounted so as to be storable in the main unit when the input device is not being stored.

Claim 4 (original): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining mechanism comprises an engaging member engaging the main unit and the input device.

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Claim 5 (previously presented): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining mechanism further comprises an engaging member is mounted so as to be storable in the main unit when the input device is not being stored.

Claim 6 (original): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
at least one detector detecting each of a storage and a removal operation of the input device;
and
control means controlling a predetermined operation of the electronic apparatus according to a signal of the detector.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An input device detachably connected to an electric apparatus having a display unit rotatably attached to a main unit, the input device comprising: at least one engaging member engaging the main unit so that at least one portion of the input device is retained into a space which is formed between the display unit and the main unit, ~~wherein the input device is removable from the space,~~

wherein the input device is completely detachable from the main unit.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An electronic apparatus, comprising:

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a main unit;

a keyboard detachable from the main unit;

a display unit rotatably attached to the main unit, and

a supporting member rotatably mounted to the main unit to hold the keyboard against the main unit when the supporting member is lowered from the main unit the keyboard is mounted on the supporting member, wherein when the keyboard is mounted on the supporting member and the display unit is rotated down, the keyboard is disposed in a space between the display unit and the main unit, ~~wherein the input device is removable from the space.~~

wherein the keyboard is completely detachable from the main unit.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A main unit used for an electronic apparatus to which an input device is connected, the electronic apparatus having a display unit rotatably attached to the main unit,

the main unit comprising a support member,

wherein the support member projects from a front surface of the main unit into a space formed between the display unit and the main unit, so that at least one portion of the input device is retained into the space when the input device is not used, and

~~wherein the input device is removable from the space~~

wherein the input device is completely detachable from the main unit.